

Upper Darby, PA— In a moving ceremony at the Cardington Stonehurst Fire Company, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) participated in a plaque dedication in honor of John Anderson, who tragically became the first Philadelphia firefighter killed in the line of duty outside the city limits while battling flames in Upper Darby. The event took place across the street from the site of the fatal fire, where a wall collapsed on Anderson on August 8, 1918. The Congressman joined Philadelphia Fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers, as well as one of Anderson's relatives and Ray Clothier, Vice President of Philadelphia's local chapter of the firefighters union. Clothier's group has taken on the mission of honoring the contributions of 20 Philadelphia firefighters who have died in service to their community. —

"Our nation's firefighters have chosen a career that truly epitomizes the dignity of danger," said Congressman Sestak. "Daily they put their lives on the line for their fellow citizens, and our nation owes them a debt of gratitude. I am honored to have opportunity to say thank you today to Mr. Anderson and the many other local men and women who have put service before self sacrificing for the safety of their community."

To honor our nation's first responders, including the hundreds of thousands of men and women who serve as volunteer firefighters, Congressman Sestak cosponsored the Supporting Emergency Responders Volunteers Efforts (SERVE) Act as another important way to ensure that volunteer firefighters, who represent approximately 75 percent of the nation's firefighters and make up all of the Bethel Department, are able to serve their community to the best of their ability. Providing a \$1000 tax credit can serve as an important recruitment tool for local groups and can help offset the cost of the many calls and training sessions that volunteers attend on their own time and at their own expense.

"It is vital to continue to fund grant programs and advocate for legislation that supports first responders, such as the SERVE Act," said Congressman Sestak. "These individuals are wonderful role models for our youth and we have a responsibility to give them the resources they need to serve our communities safely."

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on

Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

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